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(54) Title: HEPARIN-BINDING PEPTIDES AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: Heparin-binding peptides are provided of the formula R₁(X₁B₁B₂X₂B₃X₃Y₁R₂)₀R₃, R₁(X₁B₁B₂B₃X₂X₃B₄X₄Y₁R₂)₀R₃, and C(X₁B₁B₂B₃X₂X₃B₄X₄X₁C, wherein X₁, X₂, X₃, and X₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydropathic amino acids; B₁, B₂, B₃, and B₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of basic amino acids; C is cysteine; Y₁ is zero or one to ten amino acid residues, wherein at least one amino acid residues provided at least one of the segments. or one to ten amino acid residues, wherein at least one amino acid residue is proline; n is an integer from one to ten; and R1, R2, and R₃ are independently selected segments containing from zero to twenty amino acid residues, provided, at least one of the segments R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 comprises at least one hydrophobic amino acid residue. The peptide $C(X_1B_1B_2B_3X_2X_3B_4X_4)_nC$ is optionally cyclized via a disulfide bond formed between cysteine residues. The peptides are administered to reduce plasma LMWH and heparin levels and to reduce the anticoagulant effects of heparin and LMWH. The peptides are also administered to inhibit microbial growth and to inhibit mast cell serine proteases involved in various diseases and disorders. The peptides are also administered as carriers to deliver active agents.

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